

## Woman's Department.

THE BODICE AT LAST LOSES ITS SWAY.

The Skirt Will Revolve in Galore and Valves, Ribbons and Other Embellishments—Nothing Will Be Too Good for It—The Merchants Rejoice.

For a whole year now we have been so intent upon the bodice and its caprices that our poor extremities, all unadorned and undecorated, have been left to get on as best they might in skimpy covering of severest cut. The skirt has as-



SALESMAN IN WHOLESALE SILE. asserted itself. It threatens vengeance dire for our indifference to its possibilities. They revel in galore and velvet, ribbons and passementeries, which bring up a gown to the high water mark.

The merchants rejoice that now a gown may not be made of a small pattern, and that quantities of trimming will be required for a handsome effect, and also that fitting over gowns will be out of the question, for last year's skirt is just half too narrow even now for this year's mode, and by the time the flowers bloom in the spring they will be like a flannel skirt at the third washing—quite out of sight. The New York Sun fashion writer says the authorities disagree as to the dimensions of the skirt proper, some insisting on the circumference of 54 yards, others on a 4-yard measure. The number of breadths required varies, too, in like manner; but the golden mean, the happy average, includes the mystic number seven.

These seven breadths are arranged so that each one folded in the middle is sloped off at the top, measuring twenty-two inches at the bottom and not much over half as wide at the top. The skirt is gathered to the belt in front and gathered again at the back with a short stitch and a long one to get the fullness into a small space. No balayage is needed, but many women who go to the pretty inner ruffles that they cling to them still.

Authorities disagree, too, as to the feasibility of using a stiff finish at the edge, for the petticoat is now trimmed with many overlapping frills to give the



desired flare at the bottom. Of the dresses shown in the illustrations of this mode, one is of white silk in ecru, with a finish of mint tulle on the edge and many bands of brown calico brightened with gold and a touch of turquoise. The bodice is what is called the pelerine bodice, and is lined with blue and finished with fur and gold. The bonnet is brown, with a gold buckle in its bow and yellow roses inside its deep brim. The other dress is in pale blue and silk, has ruffles of blue chiffon beaded with crystal passementeries and a double collar of dahlia velvet finished with crystal beads and lined with blue. Double puffed sleeves of velvet in the dahlia color and a sash belt of the same material complete the gown, which belongs to the 1840 period, that has been very lately added to the different dress epochs from which modes are copied this season.

Buffed Collars. If you have a bit of velvet and a little fur, and nothing particular to do with it, make yourself a collar in this way: Make two ruffles of the velvet, each over a finger long, and sew them together so you have a double ruffle, run ribbon along the seam, so it will be between the ruffles; edge the ruffles with fur. Of course you line them with a pretty bit of silk. Now tie them about your throat so one ruffle goes up and the other goes down. If the upper one does not sit up as close as you want, put another piece of ribbon in just the right place to make it hold tight.

A Dress Tonic. Following a popular English caprice, red corded silk costumes in ottoman fashions and bengaline are made into fur-trimmed Russian costumes for bridesmaids at church weddings. Many persons have a decided antipathy to this color, but on a dull, leaden winter's day red in some of its richer shades has the effect of a tonic.

When argument takes the place of epithet building the victory with its principles will dawn, for epithets may be hurled by any one, but sound argument is possible only on the side of the right.

The consumption of snuff in this country is chiefly by dipping, and the bulk of the tobacco manufactured in this shape is consumed below Mason and Dixon's line.

Telegraphic observations show that the planet Venus appears to a distant observer far more nearly like the earth than does Mars.

The guests at a hotel in Ohio presented one of the waitresses with a pair of roller skates in hopes of being waited on more rapidly.

One hundred and two kernels of grain, it is said, have been counted in one head of wheat grown near Cheney, Wash.

## MONTON LACE.

How to Make a Centerpiece Which Shows Good Design.

The bowknot design in illustration requires simply the application of the braid, of which two patterns are used, one for the border and the other, more delicate in effect, for the bowknots, and the completion of the work by means of a buttonhole stitching all around the braid, the edging being also buttonhole-worked in ecru, no other stitch being employed upon this piece of work, which is nevertheless particularly pretty and quaint both in shape and design, says The Ladies' Home Journal.

In all pieces and for every design and accurately made. The placing of the braid is equal in height and width, whether round or square in shape, the work is started upon an accurately cut square of linen. The linen is then carefully doubled over and creased both up and down, across and diagonally, in order to divide it into eight equal parts, and thus using these marks as guides to insure an accurate setting of the braid in position. Measure the distance at which it is necessary to place the braid to start each section of the design, namely, about six inches from the center of the linen—then, counting the life of a piano—is forced into the case when it is made so tightly that it brings up the water alone, with the soap, to be as dry as possible, but of course it contains some moisture and gathers a lot more on damp days and in handling. Now, when you put your piano in an over-heated, dry room all this moisture is dried out, and the board gets baby and finally cracks.

How can you prevent it? Easily enough. Keep a growing plant in the room, and let as long as your plant thrives your piano ought to, for there is something wrong with it. Just try it and see how much more water you will have to pour on the flower in the room where your piano is than on the plants in any other room.

Every one has observed, after purchasing a new piano, that it soon takes on a dull, smoky appearance. To remove this use a fine sponge, tepid water and castile soap. Go over the case a little at a time. The water alone, with the soap, will usually be all that is needed. A chamomile skin, as dry as can be rung out of water, should be used to dry the surface after using the soap. For old pianos a polish of raw linseed oil, two parts, alcohol and best vinegar, one part each, may be applied with good results. Rub the polish frequently with a soft cotton cloth, one piece to rub it on, and a large, clean piece to finish off with. Brushes, usually on the front, can be taken off by rubbing with powdered pumice stone and water, or with soap. Clean the keys with alcohol and water, equal parts.

For Your Husband. Here are simple directions for making a cravat holder which any gentleman would appreciate. Take a piece of blue silk, says a New York Recorder correspondent, eighteen inches long for the inside, and allow one-half inch for hem, and for the outside take a piece of pale gold silk twelve inches long and allow one-half inch for hem. The two parts are joined together at all their edges, and between them put several layers of wadding to produce a soft effect. The cotton is thickly sprinkled with sachet powder, and the edges are followed with a row of thick silk cord, the latter being formed in a coil a little back of the right upper corner, which is reversed. The upper side of the case is embroidered with a word and floral design in shades of blue, green and yellow. The case is closed with ribbon ties. The case is lined with velvet, and the lining may be of any color you like, silk, velvet, plush or any other pretty figured silk.

Tell All the Time. The face veil is now a sine qua non of every woman's street, church, reception and theater toilet. They are worn instead of the face veil, which is slipped up during the actual eating process, to be lowered when the finger bowl appears. The vagaries in these flimsy face coverings are legion, and every one known being represented, with the fabric running the gamut of plain, dotted, jetted and even jeweled. The new red velvet is the latest caprice, and is as unbecoming as its color would suggest. One has grown weary of warning women against these veils, straggled close to the eyes and worn so continuously, and now confine their efforts to repairing, so far as possible, the damage which they work.

Poetry in the Kitchen. Beneath this placard that I roll I look, and I look lovely. A wild, wild book. A shaded book. Overgrown with cherries wild, Whose fragrant plumes are tossed in air On wafting breeze. And in these things I slowly work I see a meadow fair, Where daisies grow, And clover, too, With grasses everywhere, And crocks and flowers o'er With wild grapes growing there. And while I polish bright my stove I see a meadow green, And over them all, Long lines all filled with bloom, And dainty ferns of maidenhair: I hear the wild bird's time. And sweeping flocks and dusting chairs, I see a pasture green, A valley all grown o'er With waving, a grassy sea, Where buttercups are growing gay, Which nod to you and me. And so to all the work I do I see a garden sweet. A lovely spot That beckons my daily care All bright with blossoms and with song From happy birds and woodcock. About housekeeping.

RAIN RECEIVER. In all, then, look and finished as shown. It is well to cut three pieces of Bristol braid smaller than the outside and cover with a delicate cover of thin silk to slip inside, not only protecting, but preventing the contents from shading and spoiling the effect of decoration.

Cocunut Cookies. Three cups of sugar, one cup of butter, one cup of sweet milk, two eggs, one cup of grated coconut, two spoonfuls of baking powder, flour enough to make a dough: roll out in shape and bake.

In Hawaiian Castle. The Rev. Henry Drew was an amiable and congenial guide to the many objects of engineering interest in "Hawaiian Castle." Before leaving the drawing room I had feasted my eyes on many relics and souvenirs of the life still in such wonderful preservation. The rooms are a large light-house one, looking on to the grounds. Every nook and corner of it has some token of love or admiration from the worshippers of the great man who inhabits this retreat. These were from all quarters—India, Italy, Ireland, America and England.

Here is a huge embossed silver cylinder, containing tapestry from India, and there lying alongside a great book of photographs stamped "Hona," is an immense beautifully bound album containing nothing but the names of Italian students. The bright face of Lord Rosebery looks out on you from a large silver frame surmounted with the letter "R," while the ascetic countenance of John Morley is not absent.—Fall Mall Gazette.

## CARE OF THE PIANO.

Some Practical Suggestions Which Should Be Remembered.

"The care of a piano must be begun the moment the piano enters your house," a piano maker said to a New York Recorder writer, "and to be effective it calls for the employment of some good common sense. If it be an upright piano, do not stand it close to the wall unless you prefer to have the tone muffled. It will sound best across a corner of a room. Keep a piano in the winter in the coolest part of the room—not exposed, of course, to frost or dampness.

"The most serious injuries that befall pianos are usually the results of temperature—either it is too dry or too damp. From careful observation it is safe to say that 90 per cent. of the pianos in cold latitudes have after the first year one or more cracks in their sounding boards. If your house is heated by a stove, put your instrument in a room without a fire—in one that is heated from an adjoining apartment. If you have steam or furnace heat, your piano will do better if kept in a room that is not quite warm enough for the season.

"You know the sounding-board—the life of a piano—is forced into the case when it is made so tightly that it brings up the water alone, with the soap, to be as dry as possible, but of course it contains some moisture and gathers a lot more on damp days and in handling. Now, when you put your piano in an over-heated, dry room all this moisture is dried out, and the board gets baby and finally cracks.

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## GOVERNMENTAL CONTROL.

Petitions Circulated by Nationalists Concerning Telegraph and Telephone Lines.

A short time ago the Nationalists of Massachusetts began in earnest the agitation of government ownership of telegraphs and telephones. The movement is rapidly spreading all over the country, especially where there are clubs of Nationalists to take hold of the matter promptly. The method is to petition the state legislatures to instruct and request United States senators and members of the House of Representatives, respectively, to secure the adoption of government telegraph and telephone service by proper congressional legislation. The form of petition used in Massachusetts is as follows:

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives in General Court Assembled: Your petitioners, the undersigned citizens of Massachusetts, respectfully represent that the telegraph service of this country has become a burdensome monopoly in the hands of a company extorting in charges more than twice as much as needed for other countries, favored by government lines, are obliged to pay the rates of the monopoly, and are thus great capital to evade all fair competition, upon which the citizens are forced to rely for information.

We also represent that on the expiration of the telephone patents now soon to occur a similar monopoly in that method of transmitting intelligence is likely to be established, as given to the people as that of the telegraph. We therefore respectfully petition your honorable bodies to instruct the senators and request the representatives of this country, in the next session of Congress to secure the passage of a law to secure a government telegraph and telephone service.

It is claimed by the projectors of this movement that a petition containing 500,000 names can be presented to Congress in December, 1903. There is no reason why there should not be four or five times that many signatures, for it is pretty generally agreed by those who have watched the tendency of the people upon this subject that more than half of the voters in the United States today favor government or postal telegraphy.

As Mr. Mason A. Green, editor of The New Nation, says: "There is an ever increasing feeling that the telegraph service has become such a monopoly that it is no longer operated in the interests of the people and as it is property of an adjunct of the postoffice system it should be operated by and for the people through their government."

"The present method of operation allows the establishment of the Associated Press and United Press, by which, on account of the necessary dependence of the press upon telegraph service for news, telegraph monopoly is able to distort or suppress news of the day, and by refusal of its service to destroy or disable journals opposed to its interests or to those of kindred monopolies."

"I think that the press of this country would be a great deal better off if the telegraph system were operated by the government. This exclusive control of the avenues of information by which public opinion is formed and directed has been, and is being exercised in a manner imperiling the existence of a free press, without which popular government is impossible."

Chicago's Labor Temple. Organized labor in Chicago, as represented by the Trade and Labor assembly and the Building Trades council, is taking steps for the erection of a large building to be known as a labor temple. The idea is to have a number of halls and assembly rooms in the building, which will be leased to unions for meeting places. There will also be established a free employment bureau, with quarters in the temple, and there will be office rooms for the labor organizations requiring headquarters. Shares in the building association are placed at five dollars each, and will be sold only to trades unionists and labor organizations.

Just at present there is a little hitch about a certain plot of ground to which the Trade assembly lays claim. Ten years ago the city council of Chicago gave to organized labor the south half of Dearborn park, a piece of land about half the size of an ordinary city block, fronting on Wabash avenue and bounded north and south by Randolph and Washington streets respectively. Arrangements were begun at that time for the erection of a labor temple, but adjoining property holders filed an injunction, claiming that the government and not the city owned the property, and work on the excavations had to be stopped.

The government and city consented to the erection of a library building on the plot, and the supreme court has decided that the land is the property of the city. At this writing there is information to the effect that the Trade assembly will apply for an injunction restraining the library people from occupying ground which belongs to the labor organizations. The case is one of interest.

Farmers and Strikers. The farmers of Kansas rallied to the support of striking Rock Island operators by refusing to ship their cattle and grain over the road until the company did the square thing by its telegraphers. A dispatch from Horton, Kan., says: "Those who are prominent in the movement are leaders of the Populist party." There is food for the thought that the Trade assembly will apply for an injunction restraining the library people from occupying ground which belongs to the labor organizations. The case is one of interest.

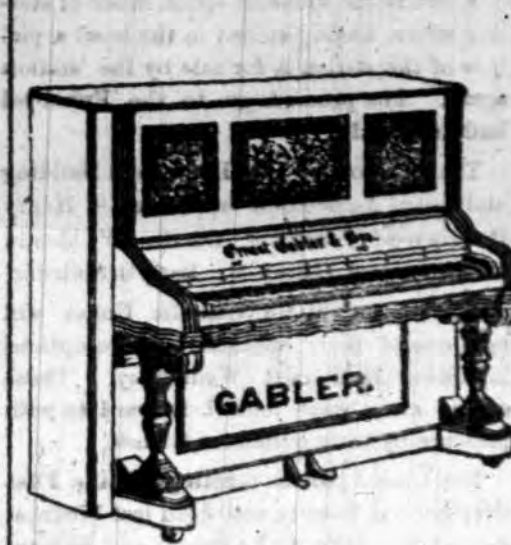
Rev. Thomas Dixon, New York's sensational preacher, says: "The time has come to put a stop to these 'idiotic' riots in the industrial world. Let us have a supreme court of arbitration and a law making the immediate settlement of such disputes compulsory."

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